



THE HOLLINS

FOOD ALLERGY AND INTOLERANCES POLICY

Date Agreed : January 2020

To Be Reviewed : January 2021

FOOD ALLERGY AND INTOLERANCES POLICY- THE HOLLINS

Statement of Intent:

This policy is a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of The Hollins community suffering from specific allergies.

The Hollins are aware that children who attend may suffer from food, bee/wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

The Hollins position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather: to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

The Statutory Framework states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergies. As such parents are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's Enrolment Form, which is submitted before starting at The Hollins.

AIM:

The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at The Hollins.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

This policy applies to all members of The Hollins community:

- School Staff
- Parents / Carers
- Visitors
- Students

DEFINITIONS

Allergy – A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen – A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis – Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

Epipen – Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, - which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Minimized Risk Environment– An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Health Care Plan– A detailed document outlining an individual child’s condition treatment, and action plan for location of Epipen.

PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALLERGY MANAGEMENT

General

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child’s healthcare plans to all relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

Medical Information

- The school will seek updated information via medical form at the commencement of each academic year. Any change in a child’s medical condition during the year must be reported to the school by parents/ carers.
- For students with an allergic condition, the school requires parents / carers to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defining the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- The SENCO will ensure that a Health Care Plan is established and updated for each child with a known allergy.
- Staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Where students with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.
- The catering database will be updated with students and staff allergies.

MEDICAL INFORMATION (EPIPENS)

Where Epipens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

- Parents/ guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epipens.
- The Epipens are located securely in relevant locations approved by the Headteacher.

PARENT'S ROLE

Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, ongoing accurate and current medical information to the school.

Parents to send a letter confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy; including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.

If a child has an allergy requiring an EpiPen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a “healthcare plan” must be completed and signed by the parents.

It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the school with up to date medication/ equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container.

In the case of life saving medication like EpiPens the student will not be allowed to attend school without it.

Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.

Parents should liaise with school about appropriateness of any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

STAFF'S ROLE

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

If a student's Enrolment Form states that they have an allergy then a “healthcare plan” if appropriate is needed. It must be in place before the student starts attending school. A risk assessment should be carried and any actions identified to be put in place. The Assessment should be stored with the student's healthcare plan.

All Staff who come into contact with the student will be made aware of what treatment/ medication is required by the SENCO and where any medication is stored.

All staff, students and visitors to the school are made aware that the school is **banana, kiwi and nut free** as we have students who have allergies to these particular food groups.

All tables in the canteen are cleaned with an approved solution.

As part of the staff first aid course, EpiPen use and storage has been discussed.

Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.

- **ACTIONS**

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- The school will contact the student's parents.
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999
- Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.
- If medication is available, it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the "Medication Policy".
- If Parents have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives, a member of Staff will accompany the child to hospital.

ROLE OF OTHER PARENTS/ STUDENTS

Snacks and lunches brought into The Hollins should be **banana, kiwi and nut free** as some students have allergies to these food groups.

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTATION IN RELATION TO THIS POLICY ARE:-

National Food trust and Food policy in schools.

Policy Updated December 2019